

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, IR

SUBJECT: GRUMMAN AGENTS PROBLEM

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FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM FEBRUARY 18 NEW YORK TIMES
ARTICLE: QUOTE: "THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN IS REPORTED TO
HAVE DECIDED NOT TO ORDER ANY MORE OF THE F-14 FIGHTER
PLANES FROM THE GRUMMAN CORPORATION BEYOND THE 80 PLANES
CURRENTLY BEING PRODUCED FOR THE IRANIAN IMPERIAL AIR FORCE.

;GRUMMAN HAD HOPED TO SELL AN ADDITIONAL 40 F-14S TO IRAN,
AND NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROJECTED CONTRACT WERE BEING CAR-
RIED OUT IN WASHINGTON AND IN TEHRAN. THE REPORTED IRANIAN
DECISION HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO GRUMMAN IN AN INFORMAL LETTER,
AS WELL AS PERSONALLY TO GRUMMAN REPRESENTATIVES IN TEHRAN.

"WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE," GEN, HASSAN TOUFANIAN, IRAN'S
VICE MINISTER OF WAR SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW YORK
TIMES IN TEHRAN. ...

'...GRUMMAN, AFTER HAVING PAID 6 MILLION DOLS TO THE AGENTS,
STARLIGHT INTERNATIONAL AND SHAHAM, INC., WHICH ARE OPER-
ATED BY AMERICANS, NOT IRANIANS, THEN WAS ORDERED TO TURN
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OVER THE ENTIRE 28 MILLION DOLS TO THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT

AS A RESULT OF IRANIAN OBJECTIONS TO THE USE OF PRIVATE LOBBYISTS.

'ONE OF THOSE LOBBYISTS, HOUSHANG LAVI, WHO MAINTAINS AN OFFICE IN PLAINVIEW, L.I., CHARGED IN AN INTERVIEW TODAY THAT THE IRANIAN DIRECTIVE, WHICH WAS ISSUED BY GENERAL TOUFANIAN, WAS MOTIVATED BY THE GENERAL'S DESIRE TO POCKET THE COMMISSION HIMSELF.

'MR. LAVI ALSO CHARGED THAT GENERAL TOUFANIAN AND AN ASSOCIATE, THE LATE GEN. MUHAMMAD KHATAMI, WORKED THROUGH AN AGENCY CALLED TASLIHAT, WHICH, HE SAID, IS A "MILITARY INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION" THAT NEGOTIATES COMPLEX WEAPONS SALES.

'DISPLAYING WHAT HE SAID WERE TAPES MADE BY HIM OF TRANSACTIONS WITH GENERAL TOUFANIAN'S REPRESENTATIVE, A MAN NAMED ALBERT FUGE, MR. LAVI SAID THAT HE WAS FORCED BY MR. FUGE TO TURN OVER MOST OF THE COMMISSIONS TO THE LATTER. IN THE TAPE RECORDINGS, MR. FUGE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS HAVING ACTED ON BEHALF OF THE TWO GENERALS.

'MR. FUGE, A RETIRED UNITED STATES MILITARY OFFICER, DID NOT RETURN SEVERAL CALLS THAT WERE PLACED TO HIS MANHATTAN OFFICE TODAY. GENERAL TOUFANIAN, IN THE INTERVIEW IN IRAN, EMPHATICALLY DENIED MR. LAVI'S CHARGES.

' "HE IS A LIAR," THE GENERAL SAID OF MR. LAVI. "I WILL SUE HIM IN THE COURTS OF IRAN, AND I AM THINKING OF HOW TO DO IT IN AMERICAN COURTS. AND IF HE CAME TO IRAN, I WOULD ARREST HIM." ...

'ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN IRAN AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN WASHINGTON, GENERAL TOUFANIAN HAS LED THE MILITARY GROUP THAT HAS BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE SHAH REZA PAHLAVI TO BUY 300 F-16S, THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER PLANES THAT WILL BE PRODUCED BY THE GENERAL DYNAMICS CORPORATION FOR THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. INGERSOLL

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